

NCERT *Solutions* HISTORY

Chapter 1 : The French Revolution

Class

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Chapter 1

The French Revolution

Questions:

1. Describe the circumstances leading to the outbreak of revolutionary protest in France.

Answer:

Following circumstances led to the outbreak of revolutionary protest in France:

1. Inequality in the French Society - The eighteenth-century French society was divided into three estates namely; the Clergy, the Nobility, and the third estate. First, two estates were given certain privileges by birth, while the third estate was forced to pay heavy taxes and did not enjoy any privileges.
2. Political issues - King Louis XVI was considered to be a weak king who was influenced by his queen. On several occasions, the king displayed his inability to take strong decisions and was seen pursuing his interests over his people.
3. Survival crisis - The population of France grew from 23 million in 1715 to 28 million in 1789, which resulted in great demand for food grains. The prices of food grains went up, and the wages and salaries given to the labourers were insufficient. This led to a severe crisis where people realized that their survival is in danger.
4. Influence of American Revolutionaries - The French Society was introduced to revolutionary ideas by American society. Freedom for all was demanded and people advocated for Republic over Monarchy. The revolutionary ideas of Americans influenced the French people.
5. Strong Middle class - Revolutionary ideas attracted the French society, and eventually, a new educated middle-class society emerged.

People challenged the absolute rule of the King and demanded a liberal society and unrestricted trade.

6. Economic issues - On 5th May 1789, King Louis XVI called a meeting with the representatives of all the three estates to levy additional taxes on the members of the third estate and they did not like the idea and voted against it. The king rejected their appeal which led to protests and marches against the King.

2. Which groups of French society benefited from the revolution? Which groups were forced to relinquish power? Which sections of society would have been disappointed with the outcome of the revolution?

Answer:

1. The French Revolution was started with a promise to fetch equality in the then French Society. The poor people of the third estate were hopeful of a better society where the conditions for them would change for the good. However, the French Revolution did not bring what it promised. The comparatively wealthy people of the Third estate that is the Commoners were benefitted to a great extent by the French Revolution as they gained power and became influential.

2. The first two estates that are; the Clergy and Nobility were forced to relinquish their power, and major portions of their lands were confiscated and also, the privileges that they used to enjoy were taken off. The King also lost his throne, and a new group of capitalists emerged in France.

3. The condition of the poor peasants and merchant did not change much. Equality was not introduced for all as even after the revolution the poor people were not given the right to vote.

3. Describe the legacy of the French Revolution for the people of the world during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Answer:

The legacy of the French revolution inspired the people of the world during the nineteenth and twentieth century in the following ways:

- 1) Feudalism was terminated and principles of equality, freedom, and fraternity spread over the other parts of Europe.
- 2) Later, “The declaration of rights of man and citizen”, was drafted in many constitutions of the world in the form of bill of rights or fundamental rights.
- 3) French revolution later inspired many other revolutions and freedom movements in the colonial countries.
- 4) French revolution gave rise to nationalism in Europe which led to the unification of Germany and Italy.

4. Draw up a list of democratic rights we enjoy today whose origins could be traced to the French Revolution.

Answer:

Democratic rights that could be traced to the French Revolution are as follows:

- i. Right to equality including equality before the law, prohibition of discrimination and equality of opportunity in matters of employment.
- ii. Right to freedom of speech and expression including the right to practice any profession or occupation.
- iii. Right against exploitation.
- iv. Right to life.
- v. Right to vote.
- vi. Promotion of the idea of fraternity by maintaining friendly relations with foreign countries in the spirit of brotherhood.

5. Would you agree with the view that the message of universal rights was beset with contradictions? Explain.

Answer:

Yes, I agree with the view that the message of universal rights was beset with several contradictions because:

1. Even after the revolution when France was converted into a constitutional monarchy, millions of people were not granted voting rights.
2. Though the universal rights advocated for equal rights, the women who took an active part in the revolution were not given equal rights. Most of the imperialist powers did not grant full freedom to the peoples of their colonies.
3. The poor people were not granted voting rights despite the fact that most of the population comprised of the poor laborers. The poor were termed passive citizens and had not given any rights.
4. Universal rights did not help the poor people at all, and they were continued to be suppressed. Women were also neglected, and only the rich men of the society gained the power.

6. How would you explain the rise of Napoleon?

Answer:

Following are the reason responsible for the rise of Napoleon Bonaparte:

- (1) French became a republic in 1792 after the fall of the Jacobean rule.
- (2) Robespierre, the then ruler of France, favored the rich and wealthy people and completely ignored the other sections of the society. He was a tyrant, and people faced Reign of Terror for several years.
- (3) Following Robespierre's subsequent downfall, a new directory was formed to avoid concentration of power in one hand. Later, the

members of the directory fought among themselves, which resulted in political unrest.

(4) This created chaos and a political vacuum in France. Napoleon Bonaparte used this situation and took power and declared himself the military dictator of France.



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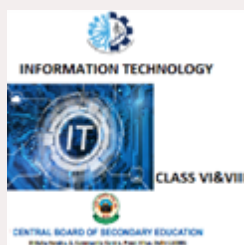
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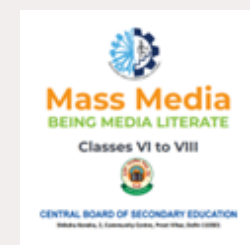
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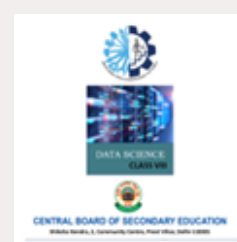
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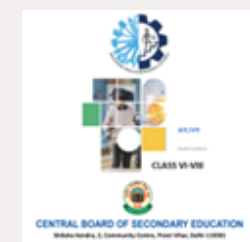
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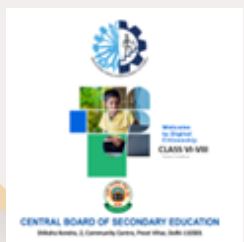
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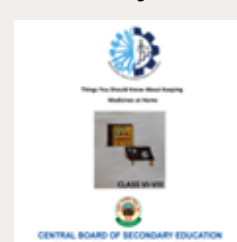
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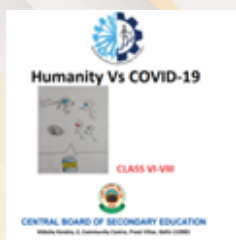
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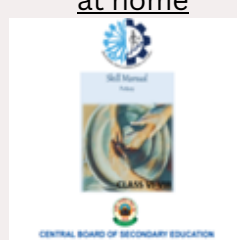
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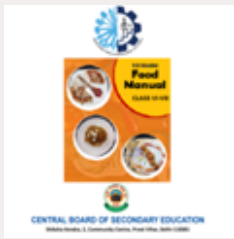
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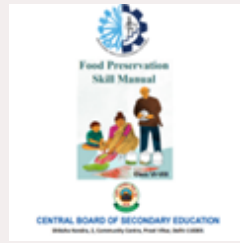
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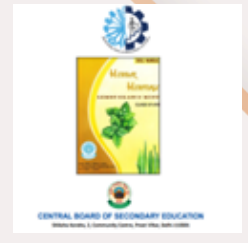
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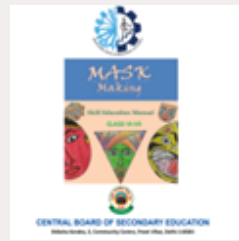
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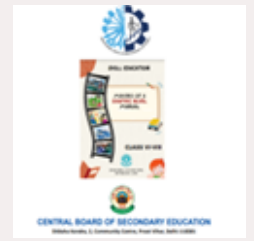
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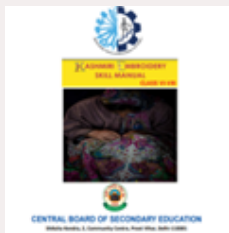
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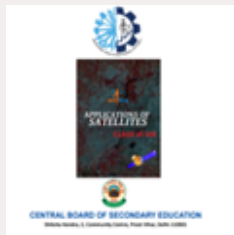
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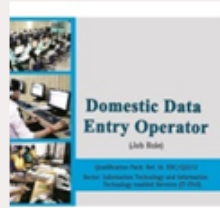


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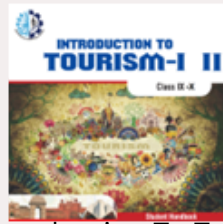
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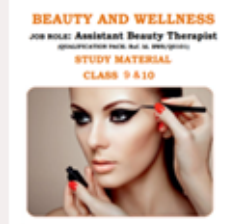
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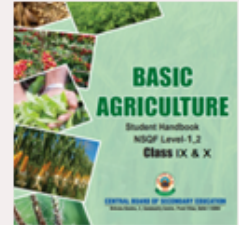
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Artificial Intelligence



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Data Science



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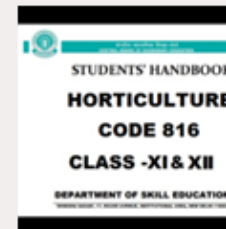
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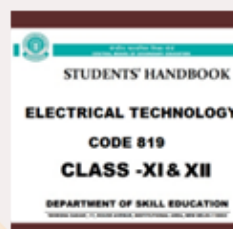
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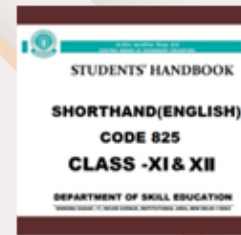
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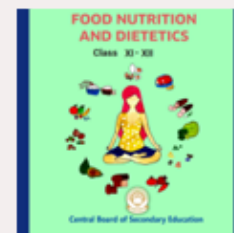
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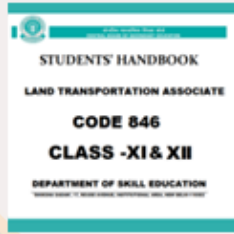
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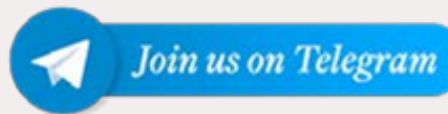
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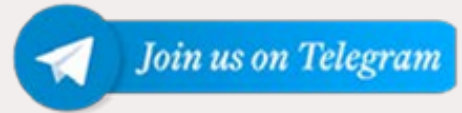
Kindergarten



All classes



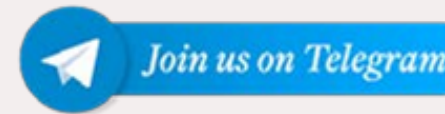
Class 1



Class 2



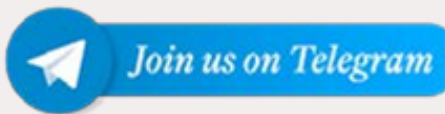
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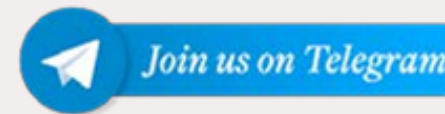
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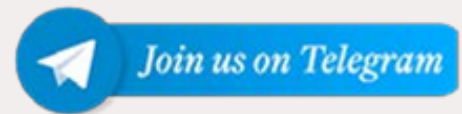
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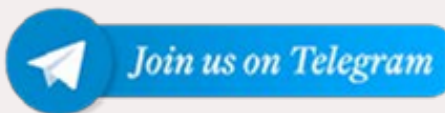
Class 6



Class 7



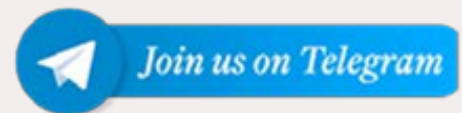
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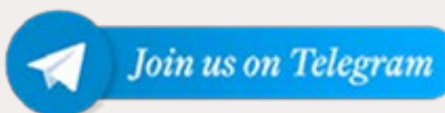
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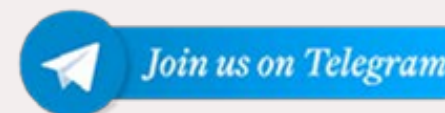
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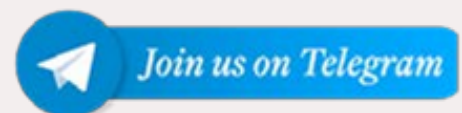
Class 11 (Sci)



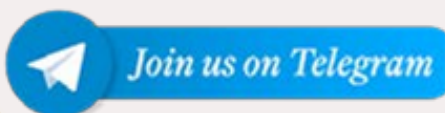
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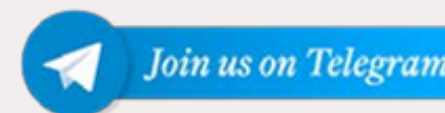
Class 11 (Hum)



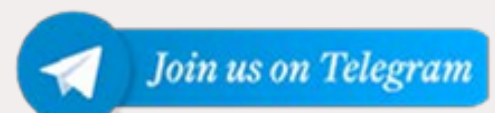
Class 12 (Sci)



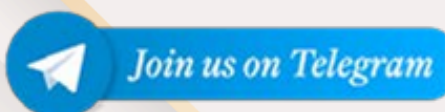
Class 12 (Com)



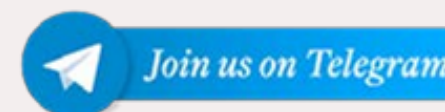
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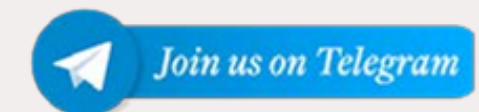
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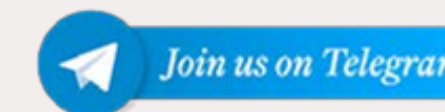
NDA, OLYMPIAD, NTSE



Principal Professional Group



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Class 12 (Sci)



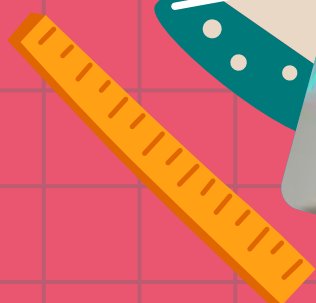
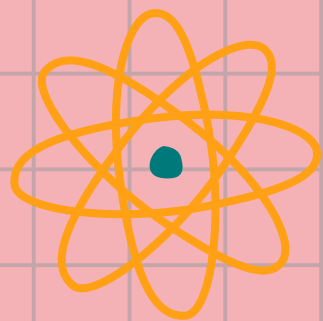
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